

DRAFT
Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes
Location: WUTC - Olympia, WA
January 18, 2005

Present

Carl Weimer, Chair
Katie Hansen, Vice Chair
Shirley Olson
Duane Henderson
George Hills
Richard Kuprewicz
Pete Kmet
Ken Thomas
Nate Moxley
Jim Clark

Absent

Grant Jensen
Chuck Mosher
Leo Bowman

Public present at the meeting

Dan Meredith, Cascade Natural Gas
Marianna Archey, Roundtable Associates
Marissa Rosati, Pipeline Safety Trust
Alan Rathbun, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Tim Sweeney, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Lindsay Marquez, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Agenda:

1. Adoption of December 7, 2004 Meeting Minutes
2. Bylaws and Appointment of Committee Liaisons
3. 2005 Legislative Session
4. Committee Letter to OPS and Congressional Delegation
5. Update from the 12/16/04 Meeting of the THLPSSC and TPSSC
6. WUTC Fee Methodology Review Update
7. Discuss 2005 Committee Workplan
9. WUTC Pipeline Safety Section Update

***NOTE – The re was no public comment given for the January 18, 2005 meeting.**

1. **Adoption of December 7, 2004 Meeting Minutes** – The meeting was brought to order. The first item was to discuss the minutes from the December 7, 2004 meeting. The committee members moved to adopt the minutes as written.

2. **Bylaws and Appointment of Committee Liaisons** – The committee reviewed and discussed the 2nd draft of the bylaws. They discussed several revisions to the bylaws and staff will revise and re-send the final draft via e-mail to the committee members. Motion to accept the bylaws, with the suggested amendments. Motion carried.
The appointment of committee liaisons to special boards or groups by the Chair was discussed. The committee was interested in knowing the types of groups that appointments could be made to. Those groups include: 1) Northwest Common Ground Alliance (NWCGA) which is a regional group that promotes the best practices of the National Common Ground Alliance on damage prevention to underground utilities and 2) Pipeline corridor land-use group, which meets with state and local governments to discuss the development of recommendations for land use practices around hazardous liquid and natural gas transmission pipelines. Committee member George Hills, representing McChord Pipeline, was appointed to represent the committee and his company on the NWCGA. Committee member Leo Bowman expressed an interest via e-mail to be appointed to the pipeline land use group and committee member Pete Kmet said that he would like to be involved with the same group via e-mail and conference call to review documents and discuss issues. Both Leo and Pete were appointed to the pipeline land use group as representatives of the committee and local government liaisons.
3. **2005 Legislative Session** – Committee Member Jim Clark, representing BP Olympic Pipeline, notified the committee Olympic Pipeline was proposing legislation that would amend RCW 19.122 (Call-Before-You-Dig Law). The bill would make it a gross misdemeanor to dig within 100 feet of a transmission pipeline without first calling for a locate to the one-call number (800-424-5555). Committee member Pete Kmet, representing the City of Tumwater, felt strongly that any sanction should be limited to pipeline right-of-way, not 100 feet. He stated that this would put an undue burden on local law enforcement and city/county prosecutors. It was also noted that the definition of a transmission pipeline is very technical and requires significant engineering or pipeline operation knowledge in order to apply. Committee member Shirley Olson also expressed concern over the potential impact on the public living adjacent to the pipeline. The Committee voted 6 – 1 to support the bill as drafted with Pete Kmet in opposition. The Chair was directed to draft a letter to the legislative committee chair expressing the Committee's support. Further, he was authorized to testify at the public hearing in support of the bill. Mr. Kmet also expressed his concern over the lack of prior notice of this proposal, making it impossible for him to consult with city officials prior to voting. Carl Weimer, Nate Moxley, Grant Jensen and Richard Kuprewicz volunteered to be on an ad hoc subcommittee to track the bill, send a letter, or testify as needed.
Jim Clark noted that the bill had not been dropped yet and therefore does not have a number. WUTC staff will be in contact with Olympic's lobbyists to find out when the bill will be dropped and the bill number. That information will be relayed to committee members via e-mail.
4. **Committee Letter to OPS and Congressional Delegation** – The committee brought forth a motion to send a letter to the Washington Congressional delegation (OPS) with copies going to the Office of Pipeline Safety. The letter gives accolades to the efforts of OPS over the past several years. The motion carried and Carl Weimer stated that he would draft a letter for the committee's review.
5. **Update from the 12/16/04 Meeting of the THLPSSC and TPSSC** – As promised at the December meeting, Mr. Weimer and Mr. Kuprewicz gave the committee an update of the meeting of the Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee (THLPSSC) and TPSSC which, were held in Washington D.C. December 14 through 17, 2004. The liquid pipeline representatives promulgated Standards for Direct Assessment of Hazardous Liquid Pipelines (69 FR 61771), and gas distribution integrity management (IM) was discussed at a

public meeting. The Inspector general of DOT stressed the importance for all parties to work together to quickly develop a plan for gas distribution systems IM by the end of May 2005. Industry members are concerned that the approach for the distribution systems does not utilize the transmission integrity management testing tools, as the systems are entirely different. We concur with the gas industry position and concerns. Representatives of the public, industry, and state regulators have agreed to meet in a March workshop to assist OPS in developing a timely plan for gas distribution IM. It was also announced that the industry standard for Direct Assessment stress corrosion cracking (or DASCC) was issued that same week.

6. **WUTC Fee Methodology Review Update** – Tim Sweeney, with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, updated the Committee on the status of the fee methodology review (P-040865). The WUTC hired Steven Miller, with Miller and Associates, to review the current methodology, and make recommendations for improvement in part based on operator feedback. Two workshops have been held with companies and WUTC staff to review alternative methodologies. General consensus appears to have been achieved around a fee formula that is in large part based on average staff effort that is applied to each company. It is planned that proposed rule language will be drafted and submitted for comment in March. Alan Rathbun also announced Mr. Sweeney's re-assignment to the pipeline safety section.
7. **Discuss 2005 Committee Workplan** – During 2005, members of the committee decided to focus their efforts on public right to know and the public accessibility to pipeline information. The committee would like to focus its efforts on recommendations from a citizen's standpoint, what information about pipelines is useful. The committee agreed that the information should not be too technical, but offer enough information for the average citizen to get the information they desire. Committee member Nate Moxley felt it was important to note that pipeline information needs to also be provided in different languages, especially in the Seattle area. He also stated that websites are not usually the best way to communicate with people that speak other languages and suggested door-to-door information distribution, direct mailings and public meetings. A major block of time will be dedicated to this subject at the next meeting.
8. **WUTC Pipeline Safety Update** – Alan Rathbun, WUTC Pipeline Safety Director, gave an update on the current events in the pipeline safety section.

Williams Pipeline – Amended Corrective Action Order Update

There is nothing new to report relative to the CAO or Williams Capacity Replacement Project.

BP Olympic Update

On May 23, 2004, a release of gasoline and subsequent fire at Olympic Pipe Line Company's Renton Station was caused by a breach in a 3/8-inch stainless steel tube used to carry product to a quality assurance testing facility. The breach occurred in a section of this tubing located above ground and behind an electrical junction box.

Following the incident, a root cause investigation was initiated by Olympic including a metallurgical analysis of the breached stainless steel tube by Anvil Corporation. Based on the metallurgical analysis including scanning through an electron microscope, the breach was caused by a concentrated heat source that melted an area of the tubing that was in close proximity to the electrical junction box. The type of concentrated heating required to cause this is indicative of an electrical arc. The same heat source that caused the breach likely caused the ignition of the gasoline. It is speculated that the arc was caused by a ground fault arcing across the air space

between the electrical conduit and the stainless steel tubing. Source and cause of the ground fault has not yet been determined.

This facility is part of Olympic's interstate pipeline. All investigation reports submitted by Olympic and the WUTC have been sent to the Western Region of OPS.

Bellevue Explosion and House Fire

The WUTC continues its investigation of the September 2 incident. PSE continues to operate under a nine-step Action Plan ordered by the Commission. PSE continues its initiative to replace steel mains and services that serve approximately 600 homes in the immediate vicinity of the incident.

The failed service pipe is undergoing metallurgical analysis in Ohio. A second pre-hearing conference before the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2005 to discuss progress in completion of the Order's conditions and to set a schedule for further proceedings.

WUTC Gas Safety Rules

The Commission is scheduled to hold an adoption hearing on the proposed Gas Safety Rules on March 16, 2005. The last round of comments are due on January 28. These rules only apply to intrastate gas operators.

Results of OPS (Western Region) Audit

The WUTC has received the results of our CY 2003 Pipeline Safety program evaluation by OPS Western Region. The score achieved on our hazardous liquids program over 99% of the possible points. On the natural gas program a score of greater than 99% of possible points was also achieved. This evaluation is used in determining the size of our federal grant for fiscal year beginning in September 2005. The final evaluation of the WUTC program will be conducted by OPS headquarters in Washington D.C.

The letter to Chairwoman Marilyn Showalter from Chris Hoidal said in part; "I am grateful for the work your agency has performed regarding the Northwest Pipeline Corporation Corrective Action Orders, accident investigations and construction inspections. I particularly want to commend Mr. Alan Rathbun and his staff for their strong oversight following numerous pipeline incidents in Washington this year."